FORM PTO (REV. 12-2		ATTORNEY 'S DOCKET NUMBER	
	TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES		
	DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)	U.S. APPLICATION NO.	
	CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371	10/049272	
INTER	NATIONAL APPLICATION NO. INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 18.08.2000	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED	
TITLE	OF INVENTION NTROL OF CEPTH MOVEMENT FOR VISUAL	DISPLAY WITH LAYEREC)ಕ
APPLIC	CANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US. DOMON WITEHIRA.	Pila	
Applica	nt herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US	the following items and other information:	ĺ
1.1	This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.	•	ļ
2.	This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing	under 35 U.S.C. 371.	ĺ
3.	This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below.	371(f)). The submission must include	
4.	The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31).	ĺ
ا_ا.د	A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) a. is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the Internation)	anal Burgoss	1
	b. has been communicated by the International Bureau.	mai Buleau).	
	c. is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Received	ing Office (RO/US).	İ
	An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.	· ,	ĺ
	a. is attached hereto.		İ
1944 1944 1951	b. has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).	*	ĺ
	Amendments to the claims of the International Aplication under PCT Article 19	* * * * * *	İ
	a are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the Internat	ional Bureau).	ĺ
	b. have been communicated by the International Bureau.		
9	c. have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendn	nents has NOT expired.	İ
	d. have not been made and will not be made.		ĺ
8.	An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Ar	ticle 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)).	
	An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).		
10.	An English lanugage translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).	Examination Report under PCT	
Iten	s 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:		Ì
11.	An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.		ĺ
12.	An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance	with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.	
13.	A FIRST preliminary amendment.		
14.	A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.		
15.	A substitute specification.		l
16.	A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.		
17.	A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Ru	le 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825.	
18.	A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154	(d)(4).	
19. 🗌	A second copy of the English language translation of the international applica	tion under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).	
20. 🗌	Other items or information:		
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CONTROL OF DEPTH MOVEMENT FOR VISUAL DISPLAY WITH LAYERED SCREENS

TECHNICAL FIELD

This invention relates to a visual display system.

BACKGROUND ART

5 Particularly, the present invention relates to a visual display system including multilevel screens which are placed physically apart.

Such screens are described in PCT Application Nos. PCT/NZ98/00098 and PCT/NZ99/00021.

These devices are created by combining multiple layers of selectively transparent screens. Each screen is capable of showing an image. In preferred embodiments the screen layers are liquid crystal display. Preferably the screens are aligned parallel to each other with a pre-set distance between them.

With this device images displayed on the screen furthest from view (background screen) will appear at some distance behind the images displayed on the screen closer to the viewer (foreground screen). The transparent portions in the foreground screen will allow viewers to see images displayed on the background screen.

This arrangement allowing multiple screens allows images to be presented at multiple levels giving the viewer true depth without use of glass or lens.

Up until now, software has been written to create visual sequences on the multi-level screens. These sequences have been mainly passive, mainly for viewing rather than for interaction.

While the visual effect of these sequences is spectacular, it will be desirable if

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potential uses of a multi-level screen display could be explored further.

It is an object of the present invention to address this problem, or at least to provide the public with a useful choice.

Aspects of the present invention will now be described by way of example only with reference to the following description.

DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

According to one aspect of the present invention there is provided a visual display system including

multi-level screens spaced physically apart,

wherein each screen has a two-dimensional plane,

a visual indicator,

an input device,

a user selectable input,

the visual display system being characterised in that

the user can use the user selectable input to move the visual indicator via the input device out of the two-dimensional plane of a particular screen.

According to another aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of using a visual display system which has multi-level screens spaced physically apart,

wherein each screen has a two-dimensional plane,

20 the visual display system also including

a visual indicator,

an input device,

a user selectable input,

the method characterised by the step of

5 the user using the selectable input to move the visual indicator out of the twodimensional plane of a particular screen and on to another screen and on to another screen.

One aspect of the present invention there is provided media containing instructions for the operation of visual display system as described.

In preferred embodiments of the present invention the multi-level screens are similar to that described in PCT Application Nos. PCT/NZ98/00098 and PCT/NZ99/00021. although this should not be seen as limiting.

The term two-dimensional plane refers to the effective viewing plane on a particular screen, similar to that seen on a normal display screen.

The visual indicator may be any type of indicator, for example a cursor, image, icon or screen image. It is envisaged that the visual indicator is something which can move in response to the user of the system via some input mechanism.

The input device may be any suitable input device, for example a mouse, tablet data glove, keyboard, touch screen, joystick, trackball, pen, stylus, touch pad, voice and so forth.

The user selectable input is preferably an input the user can make to effect the operation of software running the display device via the input device.

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For example, if the input device is a mouse, then the user selectable input may be a mouse button. If the input device is a joystick, then the user selectable input may be the trigger. If the user input is a keyboard, then the user selectable input may be arrow keys. And so forth.

We envisage that the present invention could be used extensively by those in the graphics industry. Therefore one embodiment in the present invention is envisaged that by having the input device as a pen or stylus, the present invention could be utilised in these industries to its fullest.

In some embodiments, the user selectable input may actually be a software button on a touch screen that may be independent of the input device. This allows standard input devices and drivers to be used without modification.

In further embodiments of the present invention, the input device shall be referred to as a mouse and the user selectable input shall be referred to as a mouse button. The mouse button may be an existing button on the mouse, or in some embodiments may be a dedicated button for use with the present invention.

This should not be seen as limiting.

The visual indicator shall now be referred to as a cursor, although this should not be seen as limiting.

The user can use a mouse to move a cursor around a display screen as can be achieved with usual software. However, with one embodiment of the present invention, the user can then click a particular mouse button to cause the visual indicator to move from one screen to another screen. In one embodiment the applicant uses the centre button or a configurable button on a three button mouse, but this should not be seen as limiting

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An preferred embodiments the software controlling the cursor position is supplemental to usual mouse drives.

Therefore a program can run as usual with standard mouse drive commands but the cursor position between screens can change as a consequence of the interaction of the supplemental program responding to the additional input from the mouse.

This ability enables the user to actually interact with different screens and work on separate screens in terms of having an input device which can interact with whichever screen has been selected. The advantages of this feature are self apparent.

In some embodiments, the movement from the two-dimensional plane of one screen to another screen may be discrete and it may appear that the visual indicator merely jumps from one screen to the other and be at the same x-y coordinate with the only change being in the z axis.

In other embodiments, there may be more of a linear movement perceived as a consequence of the movement from one screen to the other.

For example, the present invention may be used in conjunction with a drawing package. The person drawing may start drawing on the front screen of the visual device using the mouse and cursor.

The person then may wish to take advantage of the three dimensional quality allowed by the present invention and effectively draw in the z axis (the x and y axis having already been drawn in on the two-dimensional screen). This may be achieved by the user clicking the mouse button and dragging the cursor effectively so it appears to pass from one screen to the other screen with an image (say a line) appearing to provide a visual bridge between the front screen and another screen or screens in the background.

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In other embodiments of the present invention this ability may be used with particular total screen images. For example, the present invention may be used with an interactive game which gives the impression that the user is moving deep within a scene. For example, the user may be flying a craft in the game and as the user moves forward in the game, the images may pass from the background screen or screens to the foreground screen giving the illusion of full movement. In this embodiment the visual indicator may be the images and the input device a joy-stick.

Aspects of the present invention will now be described with reference to the following drawings which are given by way of example only.

10 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

Further aspects of the present invention will become apparent from the following description which is given by way of example only and with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 illustrates one embodiment of the present invention, and

15 Figure 2 illustrates a second embodiment of the present invention, and

Figure 3 illustrates a third embodiment of the present invention.

BEST MODES FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

Figures 1a and 1b illustrate a stylised version of one embodiment of the present invention at work. These figures have foreground screens 1 and background screens

It should be appreciated that the reference to just two screens is by way of example only and the present invention may work in relation to multiple numbers of screens.

Figure 1a shows the positioning of the visual indicator 3 in the form of a cursor arrow

on the front foreground screen 1.

In this embodiment of the present invention a simple click of a mouse button causes the cursor 3 to appear in exactly the same x y coordinates as on the foreground screen one, but, positioned on the background screen 2.

Thus in this embodiment, the user selectable input merely does a direct transpose in the z axis between screens.

Figure 2 likewise has a foreground screen 1 and a background screen 2. In Figure 2a. a triangle 4 has been drawn on the x y two-dimensional plane of the foreground screen 1.

In Figure 2b, to give the triangle 4 depth, the user has selected and dragged the image in the x y direction to give not only the image of a triangle 5 on the background screen 2, but also a plane in the z axis 6 for finding a solid-looking representation. As the screens are physically quite separate, the illusion of the solid wall 6 is accomplished by sophisticated software shading techniques.

Figure 3 again has a foreground screen 1 and background screen 2.

This embodiment of the present invention can be used for moving through three-dimensional landscapes. For example, in Figure 3a, there is pictured a flower 7 on the foreground screen, tree 8 along with a cloud 9 are positioned on the background screen 2.

The user may then use the input device to effectively move through the scene visually. This causes the flower depicted in Figure 3a to disappear from the foreground screen as shown in Figure 3b. This also causes the tree 8 to move from the background screen 2 to the foreground screen 1. The cloud 9 being in the far background stays on the background screen 2.

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Thus it can be seen that the present invention allows considerable amount of interaction between the user and the screens.

Aspects of the present invention have been described by way of example only and it should be appreciated that modifications and additions may be made thereto without departing from the scope of the appended claims.

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CLAIMS:

A visual display system including
 multi-level screen spaced physically apart,
 wherein each screen has a 2 dimensional plane,

- a visual indicator.
- a input device,
- a user selectable input,

the visual display system being characterised in that

the user can use the selectable input to move the visual indicator via the input device out of the 2-dimensional plane, and onto another screen where both screens display images simultaneously.

- 2. A visual display system as claimed in claim I wherein the visual indicator is a cursor.
- A visual display system as claimed in either claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the input device is a mouse.
- A visual display system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the user selectable input is a mouse button.
- 5. A visual display system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 which includes software supplemental to the software drivers for the input device to cause the visual indicator to move from one screen to another screen.
- 6. A visual display system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the visual indicator moves to a different z axis coordinate, but the same x y coordinate.

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James & Wells Ref: 18032/3X101



- A visual display system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the movement 7. of the visual indicator from one screen to another screen gives the appearance of providing a visual bridge between the screens.
- 8. A visual display system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein the visual indicator is a screen image.
- 9. A method of using a visual display system which has multi-level screens spaced physically apart,

wherein each screen has a 2 dimensional plane

the visual display system also including

- a visual indicator.
- a input device,
- a user selectable input,
- a method of characterised by the step of the user using the selectable input to move the visual indicator out of the 2-dimensional plane and onto another screen, where both screens display images simultaneously.
- 10. A method as claimed in claim 9 wherein a visual indicator is a cursor.
- A method as claimed in either claim 9 or claim 10 wherein the input device is a 11. mouse.
- 12. A method as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 11 wherein the user selectable input is a mouse button.
- 13. A method as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 12 which includes software supplemental to the software drivers for the input device to cause the visual indicator to move from one screen to another screen.

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- 14. A method as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 13 wherein the visual indicator moves to a different z axis coordinate, but the same x - y coordinate.
- 15. A method as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 14 wherein the movement of the visual indicator from one screen to another screen gives the appearance of providing a visual bridge between the screens.
- 16. A method as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 15 wherein the visual indicator is a screen image.
- 17. A visual display system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein the input device is a pen.
- 18. A method as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 16 wherein the input device is a pen.
- 19. A method substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated by the company drawings.
- A method of using a visual display system substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated by the accompanying drawings.
- 21. Media containing instructions for the operation of a visual display system as claimed/or described herein.

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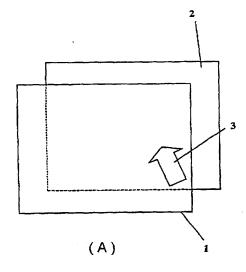
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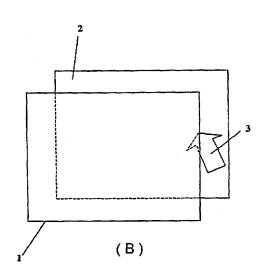
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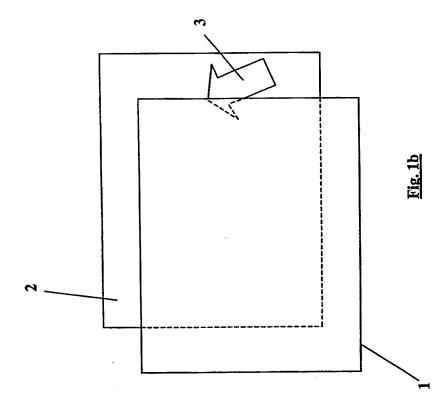
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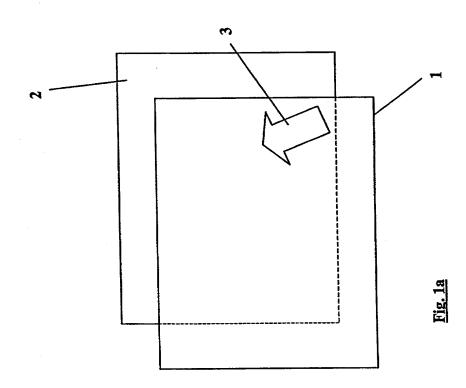
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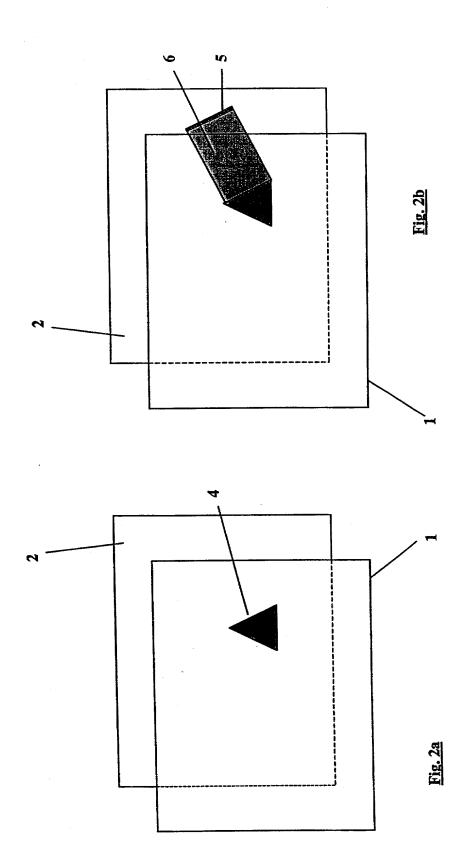


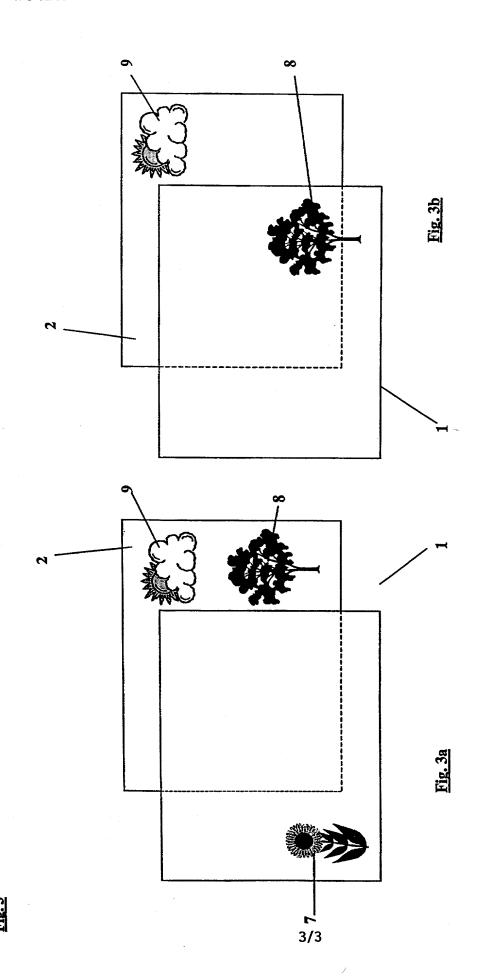


(57) Abstract: A multi-level visual display system has a plurality of screens (1, 2) spaced in the depth direction. A user can move a visual indicator such as a cursor (3) between the screens (1, 2), via an input device such as a mouse button. In drawing applications a visual link such as a line can be created between two screens. In game applications a user can move an image both within and between screens (1, 2), by dragging a cursor while moving it between the screens, to provide an illusion of three dimensional movement. The screens (1, 2) may comprise layered liquid crystal displays.









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[Page 1 of 2]

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.
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Given Name)— Pifq Family Name Witchirq or Surname
Inventor's Signature Date 3/01/2002
Residence: City Hamilton State Country V2 Citizenship V2
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STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) & 1.27(c))—SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN	Docket Number (Optional)
Applicant Patentee, or Identifier. Deep Video Imaging Limite Application or Patent No.: WO 01/5/32 Filedortssued: Filed Worment for Pavisual described Screens I hereby state that I am Image of the small business concern identified below: an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern	isplay with
NAME OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN DELP VI 20 Imag.	ing 140
ADDRESSOFSMALL BUSINESS CONCERN AMPORT KOOD MyStery Creek RD2 Hamilton	New Zealand
I hereby state that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business to the United States Patent and Tradem to size standards for a small business concern may be directed to: Small Business Adminis 409 Third Street, SW, Washington, DC 20416.	nark Office. Questions related,
I hereby state that rights under contract or law have been conveyed to and remain with identified above with regard to the invention described in:	h the small business concern
the specification filed herewith with title as listed above. the application identified above. the patent identified above.	
If the rights held by the above identified small business concern are not exclusive, organization having rights in the invention must file separate statements as to their status as to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who would not qualify as ar 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person made the invention, or by any concern which would not qualify under 37 CFR 1.9(d), or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).	s small entities, and no rights n independent inventor under
Each person, concern, or organization having any rights in the invention is listed below. In o such person, concern, or organization exists.	
Separate statements are required from each named person, concern or organization stating their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)	having rights to the invention
I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the i fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1	issue fee or any maintenance
NAME OF PERSON SIGNING Mr Koro WIKEE	Par
TITLE OF PERSON IF OTHER THAN OWNER Chil	a Officer
SIGNATURE K. W. B. DATE DATE	Hamilton 142 3/7/2002
SIGNATURE 2	2/M Y

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